

Ed Pastor, Arizona's First Hispanic Member of Congress, Dies at 75

By The Associated Press

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Ed Pastor, a lawyer and liberal Democrat who became Arizona's first Hispanic member of Congress when he was elected in 1991, beginning a 23-year career in the House of Representatives, has died in Phoenix. He was 75.

His family announced the death on Wednesday morning. Ronnie Lopez, a friend and former finance chairman of Mr. Pastor's congressional campaigns, said Mr. Pastor had a heart attack on Tuesday night while dining at a Phoenix restaurant with his wife of 53 years, Verma Pastor. He was taken by ambulance to St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center and died there.

Mr. Pastor went to Congress after winning a special election in 1991 to fill the House seat vacated by Morris K. Udall, a fellow Democrat who had retired after 15 terms, debilitated by Parkinson's disease. (He died at 76 in 1998.)

In a solidly Democratic and Hispanic-majority district, which includes downtown Phoenix, Mr. Pastor was re-elected 11 times. In 2012, he received 81.2 percent of the vote.

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